

United States District Courts

Most federal cases are initially tried and decided in the United States District Courts, the federal courts of general trial jurisdiction. There are 94 courts in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories of Guam, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands. With the exception of the territorial courts, all district court judges are appointed for life by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. In each district, the judge who has served on the court the longest and who is under 65 years of age is designated as the chief judge. The chief judge has administrative duties in addition to a caseload. Within each district, the United States Bankruptcy Court hears and decides petitions of individuals and businesses seeking relief from bankruptcy. Bankruptcy judges are appointed by the court of appeals for a term of 14 years. The judges of each district appoint one or more magistrate judges, who discharge many of the ancillary duties of the district judges. There are both full-time and part-time magistrate judge positions, and these positions are assigned to the district courts according to caseload criteria. A full-time magistrate judge serves a term of eight years; a part-time magistrate judge's term is four years.

United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,
One Church Street, Suite B - 110, Montgomery, AL 36104
P.O. Box 711, Montgomery, AL 36101
Tel: (334) 954-3600
Internet: www.almd.uscourts.gov

Number of Judgeships: 3

Number of Vacancies: 0

Areas Covered: Counties of Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Chambers, Chilton, Coffee, Coosa, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Elmore, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Montgomery, Pike, Randolph, Russell and Tallapoosa

Court Staff

District Clerk **Debra P. Hackett** (334) 954-3600
E-mail: Debbie_Hackett@almd.uscourts.gov
Chief Deputy Clerk **Yvonne Goodloe** (334) 954-3600
Chief Probation Officer **Leslie Craft** (334) 954-3226
P.O. Box 39, Montgomery, AL 36102

Chambers of Chief Judge Mark E. Fuller

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,
One Church Street, A-300, Montgomery, AL 36104
Tel: (334) 954-3640 Fax: (334) 954-3649
E-mail: mark_fuller@almd.uscourts.gov

Mark E. Fuller

Chief Judge

Date of Birth: December 27, 1958
Education: Alabama 1982 BS, 1985 JD
Began Service: December 2, 2002
Appointed By: President George W. Bush

Government: Chief Assistant District Attorney, 12th Judicial Circuit, State of Alabama (1996-1997); District Attorney, 12th Judicial Circuit, State of Alabama (1997-2002)

Legal Practice: Associate, Cassidy, Fuller & Marsh (1985-1986); Partner, Cassidy, Fuller & Marsh (1986-1996)

Staff

Career Law Clerk **Barbara Wells** (334) 954-3640
E-mail: barbara_wells@almd.uscourts.gov
Education: Michigan 1993 JD

Chambers of District Judge Myron H. Thompson

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,
One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
Tel: (334) 954-3650
E-mail: myron_thompson@almd.uscourts.gov

Myron H. Thompson

District Judge

Date of Birth: 1947
Education: Yale 1969 BA, 1972 JD
Began Service: September 29, 1980
Appointed By: President Jimmy Carter

Affiliation: Member, Chambers of Member Myron H. Thompson, Judicial Conference of the United States

Government: Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, United States Department of Justice (1972-1974)

Legal Practice: Partner, Thompson & Faulk (1979-1980)

Current Memberships: Alabama Lawyers Association; Alabama State Bar Association; American Bar Association; National Bar Association

Staff

Law Clerk **Alex Karakatsanis** (334) 954-3654
Term Expires: August 2009
Education: Harvard 2008 JD
Law Clerk **Sonia Kumar** (334) 954-3652
Term Expires: August 2009
Education: Yale 2008 JD
Law Clerk **Andrew Lanocha** (334) 954-3653
Term Expires: September 2009
Education: Columbia 2008 JD
Secretary **Lillian C. Thomas** (334) 954-3651
Education: Fort Valley State 1963 BS

Chambers of District Judge W. Keith Watkins

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,
One Church Street, Room 300-E, Montgomery, AL 36104
Tel: (334) 954-3760

W. Keith Watkins

District Judge

Education: Auburn 1973 BS; Alabama 1976 JD
Began Service: January 12, 2006
Appointed By: President George W. Bush

Legal Practice: Partner, Strudwick & Watkins (1976-1978); Partner, Clower & Watkins (1978-1986); Partner, Calhoun, Watkins & Clower (1987-1990); Partner, Calhoun, Faulk, Watkins, Clower & Cox (1990-1994)

Staff

Law Clerk **Millie Grinstead** (334) 954-3766
Term Expires: August 2009
Education: Virginia 2008 JD
Career Law Clerk **Laura F. Wright** (334) 954-3764
Education: Mercer 1994 JD
Court Reporter **Risa Entrekina** (334) 240-2405
Judicial Assistant **Patricia Newkirk** (334) 954-3760

Chambers of Senior Judge Truman M. Hobbs

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,
One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
Tel: (334) 954-3750 Fax: (334) 954-3615

Truman M. Hobbs

Senior Judge

Date of Birth: 1921
Education: North Carolina 1942 AB; Yale 1948 LLB
Began Service: April 14, 1980
Appointed By: President Jimmy Carter
Political Affiliation: Democrat

Clerkships: Law Clerk The Honorable Hugo Black, Supreme Court of the United States (1948-1949)

Government: Chairman, Unemployment Appeal Board, State of Alabama (1952-1958)

Legal Practice: Partner, Hobbs, Copeland, Franco & Screws (1949-1980)

Military Service: United States Navy (1942-1946)

Current Memberships: Alabama State Bar Association; American Association of Justice; American Bar Association; American College of Trial Lawyers; International Academy of Trial Lawyers; Montgomery County Bar Association

Chambers of Senior Judge Ira DeMent

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse,
One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
P.O. Box 2149, Montgomery, AL 36102
Tel: (334) 954-3680
E-mail: ira_dement@almd.uscourts.gov

Ira DeMent

Senior Judge

Date of Birth: 1931
Education: Alabama 1953 AB, 1958 JD
Began Service: April 15, 1992
Appointed By: President George H.W. Bush
Political Affiliation: Republican

Academic: Instructor, Thomas Goode Jones School of Law, Faulkner University (1962-1964); Instructor, Montgomery Police Academy (1964-1977); Lecturer in Constitutional Law, Alabama Police Academy (1971-1975); Adjunct Faculty, New College, University of Alabama - Tuscaloosa (1974-1975); Adjunct Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Alabama - Tuscaloosa (1975-1992); Lecturer, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University (1977)

Clerkships: Law Clerk The Honorable Pelham J. Merrill, Alabama Supreme Court (1958-1959)

Government: Assistant United States Attorney, Middle District of Alabama, United States Department of Justice (1959-1961); Instructor, U.S. Army Infantry School (1962-1963); Police and Fire Departments Assistant City Attorney, Office of the City Attorney, City and County of Montgomery, Alabama (1965-1969); Special Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, United States Department of Justice (1966-1969); United States Attorney, Middle District of Alabama, United States Department of Justice (1969-1977)

Judicial: Judge, Wake Island Court of Appeals (1985)

Legal Practice: Partner, Whitesell & DeMent; Partner, Whitesell, Alton & DeMent (1962-1965); Partner, DeMent & Wise (1982-1987)

Military Service: Major General (Retired), United States Army (1953-1974)

Current Memberships: Alabama State Bar Association; American Bar Association; The District of Columbia Bar Association; Federal Bar Association; Montgomery County Bar Association

Staff

Staff Attorney (Vacant) (334) 954-3680

Chambers of Senior Judge Ira DeMent *continued*

Judicial Assistant **LaDonna Williams Vinson** (334) 954-3680
Education: Alabama State 1990 BS

Chambers of Senior Judge W. Harold Albritton III

Frank M. Johnson, Jr. U.S. Courthouse Complex, One Church Street,
Montgomery, AL 36104
P.O. Box 629, Montgomery, AL 36101
Tel: (334) 954-3710 Fax: (334) 954-3615

W. Harold Albritton III

Senior Judge

Date of Birth: 1936
Education: Alabama 1959 AB, 1960 LLB
Began Service: May 1991
Appointed By: President George H.W. Bush

Corporate: Director, The Commercial Bank (1983-1985); Director, First Alabama Bank (1985-1991)

Judicial: Chief Judge, United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama (1998-2004)

Legal Practice: Partner, Albrittons, Givhan & Clifton (1962-1991)

Military Service: United States Army (1960-1962); United States Army Reserve, United States Department of the Army (1962-1968)

Current Memberships: Alabama Bar Foundation; Alabama State Bar Association; American Bar Foundation; American Bar Association; American College of Trial Lawyers; The Montgomery American Inn of Court, The American Inns of Court; American Judicature Society; United States District Judges Association

Staff

Law Clerk **Sarah Stevens** (334) 954-3710
Began Service: August 2008
Term Expires: August 2009
Education: Georgia 2008 JD
Career Law Clerk **Lisa Harden** (334) 954-3710
E-mail: lisa_harden@almd.uscourts.gov
Education: Rhodes 1993 BA; Alabama 1996 JD
Judicial Assistant **Elna B. Behrman** (334) 954-3710
Education: Troy State 1998 BA

Chambers of Chief Magistrate Judge Charles S. Coody

U.S. Courthouse Complex, One Church Street, Montgomery, AL 36104
Tel: (334) 954-3700 Fax: (334) 954-3709
E-mail: charles_coody@almd.uscourts.gov

Charles S. Coody

Chief Magistrate Judge

Date of Birth: 1946
Education: Spring Hill 1968 BS; Alabama 1975 JD
Began Service: May 1, 1987
Term Expires: April 30, 2011

Clerkships: Law Clerk The Honorable T. Embry, Alabama Supreme Court (1975)

Government: General Counsel, State Board of Education, State of Alabama (1978-1987)

Legal Practice: Associate, Smith, Bowman, Thaggard, Crook & Culpepper (1976-1978)

Military Service: United States Army (1968-1972)

Current Memberships: The Hugh Maddox American Inn of Court; Alabama State Bar Association

Staff

Career Law Clerk **Wynn Dee Allen** (334) 954-3700
E-mail: wynn_allen@almd.uscourts.gov
Education: Alabama 1997 JD

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